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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 074451.P119XTotal Pages 2First Named Inventor or Application Identifier Gregory J. Wolff, et al.Express Mail Label No. EL471467004US

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09/589924



ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. X Fee Transmittal Form  
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. X Specification (Total Pages 44)  
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
  - Descriptive Title of the Invention
  - Cross References to Related Applications
  - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
  - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
  - Background of the Invention
  - Brief Summary of the Invention
  - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
  - Detailed Description
  - Claims
  - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. X Drawings(s) (35 USC 113) (Total Sheets 9)
4. X Oath or Declaration (Total Pages 5) (Unexecuted)
  - a.      Newly Executed (Original or Copy)
  - b.      Copy from a Prior Application (37 CFR 1.63(d))  
(for Continuation/Divisional with Box 17 completed) (**Note Box 5 below**)
  - i.      DELETIONS OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5.      Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6.      Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)

09/589924 "060500

7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission  
(if applicable, all necessary)  
a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy  
b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)  
c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

**ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS**

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents(s))  
9. ☐ a. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (where there is an assignee)  
☒ b. Power of Attorney (Unexecuted)  
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)  
11. ☐ a. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449  
☐ b. Copies of IDS Citations  
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment  
13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)  
14. ☐ a. Small Entity Statement(s)  
☐ b. Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired  
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17. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:  
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of prior application No: 09/465,982

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Serial/Patent No.: \*\*\* Filing/Issue Date: June 5, 2000  
Client: Ricoh Corporation  
Title: GAME CONSOLE BASED DIGITAL PHOTO ALBUM (Herewith)

BS TZ File No.: 074451.P119X Atty/Secty Initials: MJM/DNT/gw  
Date Mailed: June 5, 2000 Docket Due Date: \*\*\*

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UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION  
FOR  
GAME CONSOLE BASED DIGITAL  
PHOTO ALBUM

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## GAME CONSOLE BASED DIGITAL PHOTO ALBUM

This application is a continuation in part of Serial No. 09/465,982, filed on December 16, 1999.

### 5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to field of image retrieval and organization. More specifically, the present invention is directed to multimedia creation using digital objects (e.g., images).

### 10 BACKGROUND

Photographs play a central role in many types of informal storytelling. One of the most common and enjoyable uses for photographs is to share stories about experiences, travels, friends and family. Almost everyone has experience with this form of storytelling, which ranges from the exchange of personal reminiscences to family and cultural histories. The World Wide Web can facilitate the sharing of such stories in digital form and has inspired a movement towards "digital storytelling." Stories in digital form are referred to herein as digital stories. Digital photographs have an advantage over print photographs in that users can search for and retrieve them both by their content (e.g., features such as color and texture) and by their metadata (e.g., user-supplied text annotations). Today, most digital stories are created by people with computer skills using special-purpose software for editing images and authoring Web pages. Furthermore, these digital stories are created on systems relying on graphical interfaces dependent on windows, or tables, and some

type of pointing or cursor control device. Such systems are typically not portable and are complex to use. These features make these systems difficult to share. These systems also require significant training and are inadequate for mass consumer use.

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## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A method and a system that combine capabilities for storing, authoring, and viewing various forms of digital media are described. In one embodiment, the system comprises means for accepting a cartridge having a slot for a  
5 memory device to store a plurality of media objects, means for displaying the plurality of media objects in reduced visual representations in at least one track, and means for navigating among the reduced visual representations.

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## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by way of example in the following drawings in which like references indicate similar elements. The following drawings disclose various embodiments of the present invention for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

**Figure 1** illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the display screen of one embodiment of a digital story-telling system.

**Figure 2** illustrates an exemplary embodiment of control buttons of the digital story-telling system.

**Figure 3** illustrates an exemplary expand/collapse view of a story.

**Figure 4** illustrates an exemplary XML metadata file that the system reads upon initialization of the system.

**Figure 5A** illustrates an exemplary XML metadata for a story.

**Figure 5B** illustrates another exemplary XML metadata file for a story.

**Figure 6** illustrates an exemplary XML metadata file for a single photograph.

**Figure 7** illustrates an exemplary computer system.

**Figure 8** illustrates an exemplary console having similar capabilities as the digital story-telling system.



## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A multimedia story creation and playback system using a game console  
5 is disclosed. The following detailed description sets forth numerous specific  
details to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. However, those  
of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the invention may be practiced  
without these specific details. In other instances, well-known methods,  
procedures, protocols, components, algorithms, and circuits have not been  
10 described in detail so as not to obscure the invention.

Some portions of the detailed descriptions that follow are presented in  
terms of algorithms and symbolic representations of operations on data bits  
within a computer memory. These algorithmic descriptions and  
representations are the means used by those skilled in the data processing arts  
15 to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the  
art. An algorithm is here, and generally, conceived to be a self-consistent  
sequence of steps leading to a desired result. The steps are those requiring  
physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily,  
these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being  
20 stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated. It has  
proven convenient at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer  
to these signals as bits, values, elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers,  
or the like.

It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussion, it is appreciated that throughout the description, discussions utilizing terms such as "processing" or "computing" or "calculating" or "determining" or "displaying" or the like, refer to the action and processes of a computer system, or similar electronic computing device, that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (electronic) quantities within the computer system's registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

The present invention also relates to apparatus for performing the operations herein. This apparatus may be specially constructed for the required purposes, or it may comprise a general purpose computer selectively activated or reconfigured by a computer program stored in the computer. Such a computer program may be stored in a computer readable storage medium, such as, but is not limited to, any type of disk including floppy disks, optical disks, CD-ROMs, and magnetic-optical disks, read-only memories (ROMs), random access memories (RAMs), EPROMs, EEPROMs, magnetic or optical cards, or any type of media suitable for storing electronic instructions, and each coupled to a computer system bus.

The algorithms and displays presented herein are not inherently related to any particular computer or other apparatus. Various general-purpose systems may be used with programs in accordance with the teachings herein, or it may prove convenient to construct more specialized apparatus to perform the required method steps. The required structure for a variety of these systems will appear from the description below. In addition, the present invention is not described with reference to any particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of the invention as described herein.

A multimedia storytelling system that provides a user capabilities to share digital photographs and stories. In one embodiment, the system allows the user to seamlessly switch between browsing, viewing, authoring, and playing back the photographs and/or stories. In one embodiment, a multimedia storytelling system includes three components: a storage component, a display component, and an interaction component. The storage component stores digital media objects which are displayed by the display component. The system provides the interaction component (e.g., control buttons) that allow a user to navigate the digital media objects and create stories, or playlists. For purposes herein, a story, or a "playlist", is an ordered collection of digital media objects, such as, for example, images or video clips, with one or more narration tracks. Imported stories on the top track may be merely a single photograph with or without a narration track. Photographs

may be imported in batches, similar to that of a roll of film. Similarly, a collection may comprise the images of multiple pages in a single document. Thus, although there may not be an associated narration track, an imported collection of photographs, or other media objects, or a single photograph may  
5 represent a story for purposes herein.

In one embodiment, the digital media stored in the system includes photographs, images, audio and video clips. The digital media may include raw objects, such as, for example individual photographs, as well as authored objects that combine multiple forms of media into integrated stories. An  
10 example of an authored object is a sequence of photographs with an audio, or narration, clip associated with or accompanying the photographs. In one embodiment, the time of capture for an object is known and is stored along with the object in the system.

New objects may be input into the system automatically without  
15 requiring any action from the user. New objects are input into the system using one or more sources, such as, for example, on flash memory cards containing digital photographs, video capture camera, reading digital photographs or video clips from floppy or CD-ROM drives, network (e.g., Web) downloads, etc. In one embodiment, the user inserts a flash memory card into a slot in the  
20 system and the photographs from the flash memory card are automatically copied and stored in the system. In another embodiment, the system is able to receive email messages with attached photographs and stories. The

photographs and/or stories are then automatically accessible. It would be apparent to one skilled in the art the various ways multimedia objects may be input into the system.

A narration may take a variety of forms, such as, for example, recorded audio, digital ink, or typed notes. In one embodiment, a narration track may apply to a single object or to a number of objects (e.g., a narration track for a sequence of images). There may be multiple narration tracks for a single object. That is, the same digital object (photograph) may have several associated narrations.

The display component of the system provides multiple tracks displaying digital media objects to the user. A first track displays digital media objects that are stored in the system. A second track displays digital media objects that have been integrated into authored stories. In one embodiment, a third track displays one or more digital media objects associated with a story currently being authored using the system.

The display component of the system also allows the user to navigate through the objects in storage. This may include being able to browse through raw objects (e.g., objects without narrations associated or attached thereto), browse through stories, and play back previously created stories. In one embodiment, playing back a story involves showing the user a slideshow of images along with any accompanying narrations.

The interaction component of the system allows the user to create new stories. In one embodiment, the user may create new stories using one or more of several approaches. For example, a user may author a story by starting with an empty or blank story, selecting objects to add to the story, and adding  
5 narrations to individual objects or a range of objects. The selection of objects and the addition of narrations may be performed in any order. A user may author a new story by performing edit or delete operations on an existing story.

In one embodiment, the interface is a joystick or other game console controls. In another embodiment, the system has a modeless interface, giving  
10 the user an interface of a small number of buttons and no pointing device or touchscreen. In another embodiment, the system may be implemented on a typical desktop computer or on a standalone appliance. The user controls for such a system may utilize standard input devices, such as, for example, a mouse, a keyboard, a touchscreen, a touch pad, or a physical control  
15 environment of buttons and/or sliders designed specifically for the interaction described herein.

**Figure 1** illustrates one embodiment of a display screen and interface of a system. Media objects may be loaded onto the system from various sources, such as, for example, digital cameras, digital video capture, microphones,  
20 scanners, or may be created on the system itself. These objects are then stored in the system on a storage medium (e.g., random access memory, a hard drive, flash memory).

As illustrated in **Figure 1**, the system provides a visual interface 100 which splits the screen into three general areas. In one embodiment, the first area 102 at the top of the screen, the second, or central, area 103 at the bottom right side of the screen, and the third area 104 at the bottom left side of the screen.

The first area 102 provides a graphical representation for browsing and navigating through media objects (e.g., photographs, etc.). In one embodiment, there are three horizontal tracks of thumbnail images, tracks 105, 110 and 115, each of which can be navigated by scrolling.

In one embodiment, the top track 105 shows images of existing photographs ordered by time of creation (or other such features). The time of creation may be indicated by time stamps. These may be grouped into “rolls of film” or other natural clusters which are called imported stories. In the case of scanned prints, imported stories may correspond to literal rolls of film. In the case of digital photographs, the photographs may correspond to a set of photographs downloaded from the camera in one session. The top track 105 may display all or many existing photographs currently stored in the system. That is, any image stored on the system may be displayed.

In one embodiment, the imported stories on the top track 105 may be generated automatically as a result of a database query. For example, a database query for “all images stored on a device containing blue” returns images having the “blue” identifier. The resulting images are then imported

into the system. Note that there is no requirement that the first track 105 include any stories at all. That is, the first track 105 may contain zero or more stories, each of which having one or more images.

Within an imported story, the photographs may be ordered  
5 chronologically. Photographs from digital cameras may be ordered according to when they were taken, while images scanned from print photographs are ordered by scanning time. In one embodiment, in order to distinguish separate stories, the system uses alternating background colors with each color corresponding to different story.

10 The middle, or second, track 110 contains authored stories, each including a sequence of one or more photographs selected by an individual. The middle track may also contain authored stories sent to this system electronically from some other device. Authored stories can be distinguished from raw imported stories by having a creator, sender, narration or some other  
15 features. Each story appears as a sequence of thumbnail images. In one embodiment, the imported and authored stories are ordered according to their time of creation with separate stories being visually distinguished using different colored backgrounds. In another embodiment, stories in a track may be separated by spaces in the display. The size of the spaces may depend on  
20 the length of time between the story creation times. For example, in one embodiment, photographs taken on the same day are closer together on the second track 110 than those separated by a day or a weekend. The space may



be a function of a time duration, but not necessarily linear. For example, there might be set increments for “day”, “weekend”, “week” and “more than a week”.

The bottom, or third, track 115 represents a story being authored. That is, the bottom track 115 includes a working set of thumbnail images that have been selected and manipulated by the user. The set of images may only appear in the bottom track 115 for the current session with the system. If the user wishes to further author a story after a session has ended, the user selects the authored story for inclusion into the bottom track 115.

In one embodiment, a thumbnail image appears in the bottom track 115 if it has been added to the working set by pressing one or more control buttons (e.g., either of the + (add) or record buttons, as detailed below). At any time, the story being authored has a pending status. When the story is completed and saved by the user, it joins the set of authored stories in the middle track 110. In one embodiment, the middle track 110 and the bottom track 115 need not be visually distinguished, nor for that matter, any of the tracks.

The display of the three tracks 105, 110, and 115 enables an essentially modeless interface where a user can simultaneously view authored stories, view/navigate through photographs and view/create new stories. The display also provides helpful context for viewing the current image. For example, when the user selects a thumbnail and views an image from one story, adds it to the current story, then adds annotation, the context of that image with the

surrounding thumbnails in both the original and current story remains visible and helpful for annotation.

In one embodiment, each thumbnail image appears exactly once in the top track 105. It may appear in any number of stories in the middle track 110 and appears in the bottom track 115 only if it has been explicitly added to or annotated as part of the story currently being authored.

In a typical interaction, the user comes across a thumbnail image and adds it to the working set (bottom track 115). The users may also record a related voice narration to accompany the selected thumbnail image. At the end of the session, all the thumbnail images in the bottom track 115 are grouped into a single story, and the story is then appended or added to the middle track 110.

The central area 103 of the screen display shows a large image 120. The large image 120 corresponds to a thumbnail image of a story or photograph currently being selected in the tracks in the first area 102. This allows the user to view photographs at a size that is comfortable and enjoyable (as opposed to the smaller thumbnail versions in tracks 105, 110 and 115). In another embodiment, other objects may require other display characteristics.

The third area 104 of the screen display shows the available audio narrations of the photograph currently displayed in the central area 103. In another embodiment, other information, such as, for example, creation date may also be displayed in the third area 104. As shown in **Figure 1**, there are

two narrations 130 and 135 available for the photograph 120 in the central area  
103 indicated by the depiction of the wave signal. In one embodiment, each  
narration has a visual display corresponding to the length of time of the  
narration (e.g., the longer the signal wave the longer the narration), together  
5 with related recording information, such as, for example, time and date  
recorded, and the name of recording user.

**Figure 2** illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the control buttons and  
the display of a system for creating and/or viewing multimedia stories. In one  
embodiment, the control buttons are integrated into and positioned at the sides  
10 of the body of the system to enable the user manipulate the controls while  
holding the system in two hands. This further removes the need for a  
keyboard, mouse, or other device that forces the user to let go of the system.

As illustrated in **Figure 2**, the control buttons in this embodiment include  
navigation buttons such as a scroll left button 205 to scroll the images in a  
15 selected track to the left, a scroll right button 210 to scroll the images in a  
selected track to the right, and a track selection button 215 to select the track to  
scroll. In one embodiment, a jog shuttle is used to control scrolling.

In one embodiment, a colored (e.g., yellow) vertical line 255 indicates the  
selected track and the selected thumbnail image of this track. The vertical line  
20 255 is shown in the first thumbnail image of the bottom track. The selected  
thumbnail image corresponds to the large image displayed in the central area

250. The track selection button 215 moves the vertical line 255 between the three different tracks.

When either of the scroll buttons 205 or 210 is pressed, the new selected thumbnail image on the current track either to the left or to the right side of the previously selected thumbnail image is selected and displayed in the central area 250. As a different thumbnail image moves under the vertical line 255, the corresponding image is displayed in the central area 250. Note that any type of indicator or indication may be used on the screen to select an image. It should also be noted that while in one embodiment, the scroll button 205 or 210 causes the images in the track with the vertical line 255 to move to the left or right while leaving the vertical line 255 in place, the system could keep the images in place while moving the vertical line 255 to select an image. In one embodiment, the navigation between the images may be controlled by an external joystick communicating with the system through a joystick interface.

In one embodiment, the user may quickly traverse the thumbnail images on a track by using variable-speed scrolling. At standard speed, the display appears as shown in **Figure 2**. In one embodiment, standard speed refers to pressing one time on the left scroll button 205 or the right scroll button 210. This moves the track by exactly one thumbnail image. Faster scrolling speeds may be enabled by rendering low resolution versions of the thumbnail images that are quickly accessible from a separate index in the system and by not rendering the image in the central area 250 or the narrations in the audio area

260. In one embodiment, such images may be cached in memory to increase access speed. To increase scrolling speed, the user may need to hold down a scroll buttons 205 or 210 for a longer period of time. When this occurs, the images appear to be scrolling faster by the vertical line indicator 255.

5 In one embodiment, an expand/collapse button 265 controls the view or the number of photographs displayed for each story on one of the three tracks. In the expanded view, every thumbnail image in a story is shown. In one embodiment, the expanded view is the default view. In the collapsed view, each story is represented by a predetermined number of thumbnail images  
10 (e.g., one thumbnail image). In one embodiment, a first thumbnail image of the story is used to represent the story. The collapsed view allows for faster navigation. **Figure 3** illustrates an exemplary expand/collapse view of a story. Referring to **Figure 3**, the two stories 305 and 310, with thumbnail images belonging to one story having the same colored background, are shown in  
15 expanded form. The same two stories are illustrated in collapsed form in thumbnails 315 and 320, with the first thumbnail image of each story 305 and 310 being used as the thumbnail image in the corresponding collapsed form.

Referring back to **Figure 2**, the cluster of buttons at the bottom left of the system 200 provides the user with additional controls for authoring, browsing  
20 and playing back of stories. A play button 220 is used to enter a play mode to allow an individual to view existing stories. During the play mode, the system starts playback from the currently selected thumbnail image. In one

embodiment, although not necessary, each thumbnail image has an audio clip associated with it as part of a story in which it resides. Furthermore, each thumbnail image may be part of more than one story, and thus may have more than one audio clip associated with it, one audio clip for each story. However, an audio clip may or may not contain any recorded narration. When a narration exists, the narration is played through a sound system which may be part of the game console or part of the display device. If there is no recorded narration, there will be a pause of a certain length of time, for example one second. After the narration is played or after the pause (due to not having the narration), the selected track automatically scrolls forward to a next thumbnail image in the story. In one embodiment, the next thumbnail image is determined based on a default viewing and storytelling direction of left-to-right. If the user navigates to a new thumbnail image while the system is playing, for example scrolling left or right, changing to a different track, playback of the currently playing audio clip is stopped. If the user takes no further action for a brief length of time (e.g., one second), the system plays the audio clip associated with the newly selected thumbnail image and continues with that story from that point on.

As discussed above, the selected thumbnail image may have more than one associated audio clip and corresponding narrations. Whenever a thumbnail image is selected, all of the audio narrations associated with that thumbnail image are displayed in the audio area 260. In one embodiment, if the selected

thumbnail image has more than one associated audio clip, and when the system is playing an audio clip, pressing the play button 220 causes the system to advance to a next audio clip.

Referring to **Figure 1**, there are two available narrations for the selected thumbnail image, narration 120 and narration 125. Each narration is marked with the time of recording and the name of the recording user. The length of the wavy lines is proportional to the duration of the audio. The narration associated with the selected story is listed first, as in narration 120. Referring to **Figure 2**, the narration associated with the selected story is played by default when the play button 220 is pressed. Pressing the play button 220 multiple times in quick succession selects one of the alternate audio clips and playback “jumps” to the corresponding story, providing a method of automatic hyperlinking between stories.

The system remains in the play mode until the stop button 225 is pressed or until the end of story is reached. When this occurs, the system enters into stop mode. While in the stop mode, no audio clip is played by the system.

In one embodiment, while the system is in the play mode, the remove (-) button 235 has no effect on the play mode of the system. However, pressing the add (+) button 230 adds the currently displayed image to the working set.

Thus, the system appends the currently displayed image to the working set, but it does not stop the play mode. Furthermore, if the user presses the save button 245 while the system is in the play mode, the system stops playing the audio

clip and performs a save operation. Furthermore, if the user presses the record button 240 while the system is in the play mode, the audio clip is stopped.

In one embodiment, while in the authoring mode (not the play mode) a story may be created by pressing the + (add) button 230 when the vertical line 255 is positioned over a particular thumbnail image to append a copy of that currently selected thumbnail image onto the working set or the bottom track 115. The – (remove) button 235, conversely, removes the selected thumbnail image (i.e., the image over which the vertical line 255 is positioned) from the working set on the bottom track 115.

While in authoring mode, pressing the record button 240 starts the recording function. While the recording function is active, the audio recorded by the microphone is stored and associated with the currently displayed thumbnail image in the working track. In one embodiment, this is done by making a link in the underlying XML file. If the thumbnail image is not already in the working set, it is appended before the recording begins, as though the + button 230 was pushed first. If the selected thumbnail image is already on the working track, the new recording overwrites any previous recording associated with the thumbnail image in the story being authored. While recording, if the user selects a new thumbnail image, such as, for example by scrolling left or right, by changing to a different track, or by pressing the expand/collapse button, the recording continues for the audio clip associated with the new thumbnail image. In addition, the new thumbnail image is appended to the



working track, if it is viewed for more than a short time, (e.g. 1 second).

However, if the user scrolls left or backward, but still remains on the working track, recording is automatically stopped. This prevents accidental erasures. In other embodiments, the new thumbnail image is inserted at a point before or after the thumbnail image last selected on the working track (e.g., the center image of track 3). In this situation, recording continues starting with the audio clip associated with the new inserted thumbnail image. Furthermore, pressing the play button 220 also stops the recording mode and put the system in the play mode. This makes recording a story as similar to viewing a story as possible.

In another embodiment, the system may include a touchscreen or a pointing device (e.g., cursor control device). In this case, while in the recording mode, the user's pointing gestures would be captured. During playback, areas that had been pointed to are highlighted at appropriate times. One way to perform highlighting is to darken the rest of the image. Alternatively, a semi-transparent overlay can be used (e.g., a yellow circle).

When the system is in the stop mode, the user may drag thumbnail images from one track to another, or the user may drag thumbnail images to different points within a story. Alternatively, a dragging operation can be used in place of scroll left/right to move all or multiple images in a track at the same time.

Pointing to a particular thumbnail selects the thumbnail image, selects the track the thumbnail image is on, and displays the corresponding large image in the central area 250. In another embodiment, touching the screen may highlight an image in a track but not select it.

5 In one embodiment, the recording operation supports both "select then narrate" and "select while narrating" strategies. In "select then narrate" strategy, the users may compose a story by first selecting a working set of thumbnail images using the + button 230 or the – button 235 and then annotating each thumbnail images in order. Alternatively, in the "select while  
10 narrating" strategy, the users may continuously record narrations while navigating and selecting photos. When recording is active, each new photograph that a user views for longer than a short time interval is automatically added to the working set along with any recorded input. This supports the "select while narrating" strategy. For sound recording, in one  
15 embodiment, a microphone 270 is attached to or integrated into the external body of the system. In another embodiment, the device is equipped with a speech recognition software to translate audio narration into text.

The group of buttons at the bottom right of **Figure 2** controls story operations. The save button 245 "saves" the current working story that is  
20 displayed on the bottom track by moving it to the end of the middle track. Note that the current state of the system is also saved to the system storage device at that time. The XML files (or equivalent representations) along with

audio clips may be stored in memory (e.g., RAM) and written out to a hard disk when saved. (They may also be written out at other times.) In another embodiment, the user would also have the option of electronically sending a completed story to another user for viewing on a similar system or on a regular PC via a media player application or standard Web browser. In another embodiment, a "print" button allows the user to print a selected image on a locally connected, via wire or wireless technology, printer or a remote device.

In one embodiment, the system has an attached image creation/capturing device (e.g., a video camera). The video camera can point inward at the holder of the system or it can point outward. A take-picture button on the system allows the user to take a still image from the camera, time-stamp, and add the image to the top track. In another embodiment, an image of the narrator is automatically grabbed by the camera at the beginning of every recording session, or at pre-set intervals, or every time the video input changes by more than some predetermined threshold. Using the video camera, the images captured by the video camera may be added to the first track 105 and available for inclusion in authored stories like all other objects in the system.

In one embodiment, stories and metadata about photographs are stored on the storage device in Extensible Markup Language (XML). **Figure 4** illustrates an exemplary XML metadata file that the system reads during initialization. The initializing metadata file 400 is stored in a predetermined known location on the storage device. In one embodiment, the initializing

metadata file is named "families.xml" and the location of the file is determined using a local Uniform Resource Locator (URL) corresponding to the file on the storage device of the system. For each possible group (e.g., family) using the system, the initializing metadata file contains pointers to the stories

- 5 corresponding to the three tracks. For example, the metadata file of **Figure 4** points to a story file 405 "meta6.xml". In one embodiment, the initializing metadata file also maintains further administrative functions, such as, for example, user ids and passwords to prevent unauthorized viewing of personal stories. In one embodiment, the initialization file contains user specific
- 10 information. In another embodiment, the system assumes a single user.

**Figure 5A** illustrates an exemplary XML metadata for a story. The XML metadata file for story 500 points to two other stories, "meta3.xml" 505 and "meta5.xml" 510. Note that each metadata file has an associated "type" attribute having a value of either "story" or "document" indicates single object.

- 15 **Figure 5B** illustrates another exemplary XML metadata file for a story. Metadata file 520 represents the story "meta3.xml" 505 pointed to by the metadata file 500. Metadata file 520 has a list of photographs shown as "meta1.xml" 525 and "meta2.xml" 530. Note that the photograph references are in the form of the URL of the corresponding metadata XML file. Each
- 20 photograph may also have an associated audio clip shown as "clip1.au" 535 and "clip2.au" 540. In one embodiment, the offset attribute of the audio tags associated with audio clip 535 or audio clip 540 specifies a starting location of

the referenced audio narration (such as when, for example, one audio file contains more than one user-supplied audio narration) within the audio file and is measured in milliseconds.

**Figure 6** illustrates an exemplary XML metadata file for a single

5 photograph. Metafile 600 represents the image "meta1.xml" pointed to by the metafile illustrated in **Figure 5B**. Metafile 600 includes URLs that point to two image files, a full size image 605 that may be used in area 103 of the display and a thumbnail image 610 that may be used in the tracks 105, 110, and 115. In addition, the metafile 600 includes color data for a reduced representation. The  
10 reduced representation of the image may be rendered either as a thumbnail image or as a full size.

In one embodiment, using XML allows for easy translation to other formats such as Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) or Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language (SMIL). This enables stories to be shared  
15 with others and viewed on different devices. The SMIL format is especially appropriate as it allows the synchronization of audio with a series of images to match the structure of the stories. Using any of these formats, a story including the associated photos and audio clips can be saved in a file. The file may then be uploaded to a web server and assigned a unique URL. The URL may then be  
20 sent on the web to specified recipient or list of recipients by email using the standard email protocols, for example SMTP. In one embodiment, to send the electronic mail (email), the system provides a network interface, for example

Ethernet, modem, or wireless. Alternatively, the file may be sent to the recipient(s) as an email attachment using a standard attachment encoding technique, for example Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME).

In one embodiment, the email address of the recipients may be specified using the scroll left/right and the add (+)/remove (-) buttons. These buttons are used to navigate among letters and punctuation symbols displayed on the top track 105. An email address may be constructed on the bottom track 115. The middle track may be used to display previously saved email addresses.

Email addresses of people who send stories to the users may automatically be added to the second track. Furthermore, the system may accept input email addresses through a "contact" file or vCard file (a Personal Data Interchange (PDI) technology developed by the Versit Consortium) beamed by IR from a PDA (e.g., a Palm Pilot). To generate a new email address, the user may use a stylus to type on an on-screen keyboard. Using the stylus, handwriting recognition software, for example Graffiti by Palm Computing, may be used to recognize the user's handwriting. Alternatively, the user may use an external keyboard plugged into a keyboard interface provided by the system. Besides sending stories to email recipients, the system may also automatically check for new stories, for example, in the form of email messages or a predetermined web page listing new stories sent to the device/owner, at set intervals or at set times of day. The system may also automatically download any new stories or messages.

In one embodiment, the system includes a cradle or docking station that includes power and network interface. In one embodiment, all communication (sending/receiving messages) is queued for execution when the system is docked. The communication then occurs automatically when docked. In one  
5 embodiment, while the system is in the cradle or otherwise unused for a set period of time, an auto play screen saver feature is activated causing the screen to cycle through all the stories in the system.

In one embodiment, the system may create a movie file using the images and the associated audio clips in synchronization with each other, just as they  
10 are shown on the system when the user presses the play button. The movie file may then be stored in a standard format, such as, for example MPEG, AVI, or QuickTime, and may then be sent to the recipient(s) as an email attachment. In another embodiment, the author of a story may choose to send his or her own photograph to be associated with a story when the story is sent to a recipient.  
15 A link to this photograph is included and associated with the email. When the recipient views the email, the photograph of the author is displayed in an image slot. Alternatively, the photograph associated with the author might also be displayed as the first photograph in a story, or somehow combined with the first photograph especially for the collapsed view.

20 As discussed above, the system may accept as input media objects from various sources. In one embodiment, other media objects, for example video clips, presentation slides, pages of documents, web pages, and audio clips may

also be loaded onto the system. With the video clips as input, an incoming video stream can be captured through a standard analog video capture board, or via a "firewire" (IEEE 1394) interface, or by direct connection to an already-

- 5 can then be segmented into clips using standard scene-change detection algorithms. Each clip can then be treated as a photograph. Furthermore, each clip may already have an associated audio segment from the original video source. In this embodiment, pressing the play button enables the system to play both the audio segment and the video clip synchronized with each other.
- 10 The system then moves on to a next clip of the story. A first frame of the video clip may be used as a thumbnail image representing the video clip.

- With presentation slides as input, the system creates an image for each presentation slide. The presentation slides may have been generated by presentation software (e.g., Powerpoint) or other document or graphics editing
- 15 tools. The story is then viewed on the system as a sequence of slides, similar to a presentation. With the pages of document as input, a story in the top track corresponds to the pages of an original document, in order. A story in the middle track is a collection of reorganized pages with added audio commentary, for example a summary. Documents can easily be imported from
- 20 existing formats, both page-based, for example Postscript, or PDF, and linear, for example HTML, or plain text. In the latter case a pagination operation would be required.



With Web pages as input, the top track 115 may contain a user's chronological browsing history. This may be captured by monitoring a Web browser or by acting as a proxy server intercepting and serving all of a user's HTTP requests. Each story corresponds to a length of time (e.g., one day or one  
5 browsing session, etc.). The second track allows the user to compose and sequence groups of Web pages for easy access and later retrieval. In the second track, a story might correspond to a bookmark folder, a series of pages found in the course of one search, or any other structure as is useful to the user.

With the audio clips as input, the top track may represent "albums" or  
10 audio CDs that the user has scanned into the system via a CD-ROM drive, or downloaded from the Web directly as a series of audio files, for example MP3 files from MP3.com, Windows Media Audio files from Microsoft, Liquid Audio files from LiquidAudio.com, RealJukebox files from Real Networks, etc. Each "album" is an ordered set of "songs". The second track represents the user's  
15 "playlists" (e.g., the user's own sequences of songs to be played). In this case, there is a default visual representation for each song, or the user chooses relevant icons, or a Web service provides icons to match artist names, song titles or album titles.

**Figure 7** illustrates an embodiment of an exemplary computer system  
20 that comprises the storage, display and interaction components of the digital story creation and play back system. The various components shown in **Figure 7** are provided by way of example. Certain components of the computer in

**Figure 7** can be deleted from the system for a particular implementation of the invention. In other systems, additional components may be added without affecting the scope of the present invention. In other systems, additional components may be added without affecting the scope of the present invention.

5        **Figure 7** illustrates a system bus 700 to which various components are coupled. A processor 701 performs processing tasks required by the computer. Processor 701 may be any type of processing device capable of implementing the steps necessary to perform the storage, displaying, and interaction capabilities described herein. An input/output (I/O) device 704 is coupled to  
10 bus 700 for communicating with other devices coupled to the computer. A read-only memory (ROM) 703 and a random access memory (RAM) 705 are coupled to bus 700 to provide storage for various data and information used by the computer. Although ROM 703 and RAM 705 are shown coupled to bus 700, in alternate embodiments, ROM 703 and RAM 705 are coupled directly to  
15 processor 701 or coupled to a dedicated memory bus (not shown).

A video display 710 is coupled to bus 700 and displays various information and data to the user of the computer. A disk drive 702 is coupled to bus 700 to provide long-term mass storage of information. In one embodiment, a pointing device 708 is coupled to bus 700 for entering  
20 information and commands to the computer system. In another embodiment two displays may be used, one low resolution display for the 3 tracks and a

high-resolution display for the main viewing area. The main viewing area may not be needed for audio and other media.

In another embodiment, the multimedia story telling system is comprised of a console and one or more media cards. For example, the console may be a Nintendo console by Nintendo of America, Inc, and the media card may be a flash memory card capable of storing a large number of digital images. **Figure 8** illustrates an exemplary console that can be used as a digital story telling system. One or more controllers 808 may be attached to the console 805 to accept input from the user. In one embodiment, the console 805 is capable of providing all the control functions provided by the digital story telling system (shown in **Figure 2**). For example, the control functions on the digital story telling system are mapped to the console 805 such that the scroll left function on the system may be performed by moving the joystick on the controller 808 to the left, and the play function on the digital story telling system may be performed by pressing a <C> button on the controller 808, etc.

**Figure 9** is an exemplary table illustrating one embodiment of the mapping of the functions of the control buttons in the digital photo album to the joystick and buttons in the game console. In one embodiment, one or more game controllers is attached to the game console. The controller includes a joystick and multiple buttons (e.g., A, B, C, D, START, etc.). Using the table 900, the joystick can be used to navigate in the left, right, up, or down direction to

reach a media object on, for example, the third track. By pressing the <A> button on the controller, the media object is added to the first track.

Referring back to **Figure 8**, in another embodiment, a display 810 is used to display the digital media normally displayed on the screen of the digital story telling system. The display 810 may be a monitor, a television, etc., and can allow multiple users to view the images in the stories at the same time. The display 810 may be connected to the console 806 through a display interface, such as, for example, a coaxial connection. Alternatively, the connection between the console 805 and the display 810 may be wireless.

In one embodiment, the console 805 has a slot 806 to accept cartridges 812. Each cartridge 812 has a slot 814 for inserting the media card to provide additional digital images to the console 805. For example, digital camera systems may use the media card to store captured digital images. The digital images may then be transferred from the media card to the console 805 through the cartridge 812. In another embodiment, the cartridge 812 itself may have a long-term storage capability such that when it is inserted into the console 805, the digital images in the media card are transferred to the long-term storage device in the cartridge 812. Alternatively, the images from the digital cameras may be transferred directly to the cartridge 812 through a direct interface on the cartridge 812 or through a connection on the console 805. The images stored on the cartridge 812 can then be displayed in the system using the three track display.

In one embodiment, the images associated with the stories created using the console 805 may not have audio annotations since the console may not have a recording capability. In this way, using the console and the control functions mapped from the system to the console, the images displayed on the tracks can be organized into stories without the annotation aspects of the stories.

Alternatively, audio annotations can be added by editing these stories and using the recording capability of the digital story telling system at a later time. For example, the stories created by using the console 805 can be saved in the media card. The media card can then be used with the digital story telling system and the audio annotations can be added to the stories. In another embodiment, the console 805 may allow the user to select one of multiple pre-recorded background music selections to accompany the stories created from the console 805.

In one embodiment, some of the features of each image such as, for example, the background music is stored along with the image in the storage device. The storage device may be the media card. The media card may have different storage capabilities providing the user different alternatives to store the images depending how many images the different media cards may hold.

In another embodiment, the console 805 is Internet ready. With the appropriate communication interface such as, for example, a modem and the communication software such as, for example, an Internet browser, the console can be used to send stories to a recipient using the Internet. For example, the

user may use the console to enter the email address of the recipient. In one embodiment, when the user selects the option to send the story, the console enters into a send mode. In this mode, the three track arrangement may be used to specify the email address. For example, the top track may contain

- 5 letters of the alphabet and the user select the letters similar to the way the user's name is entered before playing a game. The middle track may contain known email addresses, and the bottom track may contain a list of recipients. The joystick and the buttons can be used to select the address similar to the way the media object is selected. In one embodiment, to send the image to the recipients
- 10 shown on the bottom track, the user may select the send option again.

From the above description and drawings, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that the particular embodiments shown and described are for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the

15 invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. References to details of particular embodiments are not intended to limit the scope of the claims.

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system comprising:
  - 2 means for accepting a cartridge having a slot for a memory device to store
  - 3 a plurality of media objects;
  - 4 means for displaying the plurality of media objects in reduced visual
  - 5 representations in at least one track; and
  - 6 means for navigating among the reduced visual representations.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of media objects stored in the
- 2 memory device are transferred to the cartridge when the memory device is
- 3 inserted into the slot.
- 1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the memory device is a flash memory card.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the display means displays imported objects
- 2 in a first track, authored stories in a second track and in a third track, at
- 3 least one of the authored stories on the third track being part of a story
- 4 under creation.
- 1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the imported objects are provided from the
- 2 memory device and comprise the imported stories.

1 6. The system of claim 4, wherein means for navigating among the reduced  
2 visual representations comprises:  
3 means for selecting the media object from the first track and/or from the  
4 second track;  
5 means for adding a representation of the selected media object to the third  
6 track to enable a user to author a new story; and  
7 means for moving one of the authored stories from the second track to the  
8 third track to enable the user to edit the authored story.

1 7. The system of claim 6 further comprising means for selecting background  
2 music from a plurality of pre-recorded background music songs and means  
3 for associating the selected background music with the authored story.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting comprises a game  
2 controller having a joystick and a plurality of control buttons.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the joystick is used to scroll among the first  
2 track, the second track and the third track, and wherein the plurality of  
3 control buttons comprise an add button and a delete button for adding and  
4 deleting, respectively, the media object in the third track.



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- 1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the joystick and the plurality of control  
2 buttons specify an Internet email address to send the plurality of media  
3 objects to a recipient.
- 1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the plurality of control buttons and  
2 joystick specify the Internet email address by selecting a plurality of  
3 alphanumeric characters with the plurality of control buttons.
- 1 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the plurality of control buttons and  
2 joystick select the Internet email address from a list of previously generated  
3 Internet email addresses.
- 1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the second track displays previously  
2 generated Internet email addresses, and wherein the third track displays  
3 the selected Internet email address.
- 1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the memory device is a flash memory  
2 card.
- 1 15. A method comprising:  
2 accepting a cartridge having a slot for a media card storing a plurality of  
3 media objects;  
4 displaying the plurality of media objects in reduced visual representations  
5 displayed in a plurality of tracks; and  
6 navigating among the reduced visual representations.

- 1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising transferring the plurality of  
2 media objects stored in the media card to the cartridge when the media  
3 card is inserted into the slot.
- 1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the media card comprises a flash memory  
2 card.
- 1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein displaying the plurality of media objects  
2 comprises displaying imported stories in a first track on a display,  
3 authored stories in a second track and in a third track on the display, an  
4 authored story on the third track being a story under creation.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising transferring the imported  
2 stories from the media card, wherein the imported stories comprise of one  
3 or more media objects.
- 1 20. The method of claim 15, wherein navigating among the reduced visual  
2 representations comprises:  
3 moving the media object from the first track and/or from the second track  
4 to the third track to enable a user to author a new story; and  
5 moving the authored story from the second track to the third track to  
6 enable the user to edit the authored story.

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- 1 21. The method of claim 20 further comprising selecting background music  
2 from a plurality of pre-recorded background music to associate the selected  
3 background music with the authored story.
- 1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein moving the media object comprises using  
2 a game controller having a joystick and a plurality of control buttons.
- 1 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising using the joystick and the  
2 plurality of control buttons to specify an Internet email address of a  
3 recipient to send the plurality of media objects.
- 1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein specifying the Internet email address  
2 comprises selecting a plurality of alphanumeric characters.
- 1 25. The method of claim 23, wherein specifying the Internet email address  
2 comprises selecting the Internet email address from a list of previously  
3 generated Internet email addresses.
- 1 26. The method of claim 23, further comprising the second track displaying  
2 previously generated Internet email addresses, and the third track  
3 displaying the selected Internet email address.
- 1 27. The method of claim 15, further comprising displaying the plurality of  
2 media objects on a television screen.

1     28. A system comprising  
2        a storage device to store a plurality of stories, each story comprising a  
3        plurality of media objects; and  
4        a console comprising  
5            a processor in communication with the storage device; and  
6            an input interface for accepting the storage device, the storage device  
7                having a slot for a media card comprising the plurality of media  
8                objects.

1     29. The system of claim 28 further comprising a display coupled with the  
2     console, the display displaying the media objects in a first track, a second  
3     track and a third track.

1     30. The system of claim 28 further comprising a controller, coupled with the  
2     console having a joystick and multiple control buttons to move media  
3     objects among the first track, the second track and the third track.

1 31. The system of claim 30 wherein the controller controls play of a plurality of  
2 authored stories, each authored story comprising the plurality of media  
3 objects, wherein the authored story generated by the user using the  
4 controller to group related media objects.

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1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the display displays the authored stories  
2 in the second track and in the third track, with the authored story in the  
3 third track is under construction.

1 33. The system of claim 28, wherein the media card comprises a flash memory  
2 card.

1 34. A system, comprising  
2 a console having an input interface for accepting a storage device to store a  
3 plurality of media objects, the storage device having a slot for a media  
4 card;  
5 a display coupled with the console to display the plurality of media objects  
6 in a first track, a second track and a third track; and  
7 at least one controller coupled with the console, the controller comprising a  
8 joystick and at least one control button to navigate the plurality of  
9 media objects among the first track, the second track and the third  
10 track.

1 35. The system of claim 34, wherein the media card comprises a flash memory  
2 storing the plurality of media objects.

1 36. The system of claim 34, wherein the controller controls play of a plurality  
2 of authored stories, each authored story comprising the plurality of media  
3 objects, wherein the authored story generated by the user using the  
4 controller to group related media objects.

- 1 37. The system of claim 36, wherein the display displays the plurality of  
2 authored stories in the second track and in the third track, with the  
3 authored story in the third track is under construction.

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and a system that combine capabilities for storing, authoring, and viewing various forms of digital media are described. In one embodiment, the system comprises means for accepting a cartridge having a slot for a memory device to store a plurality of media objects, means for displaying the plurality of media objects in reduced visual representations in at least one track, and means for navigating among the reduced visual representations.

10

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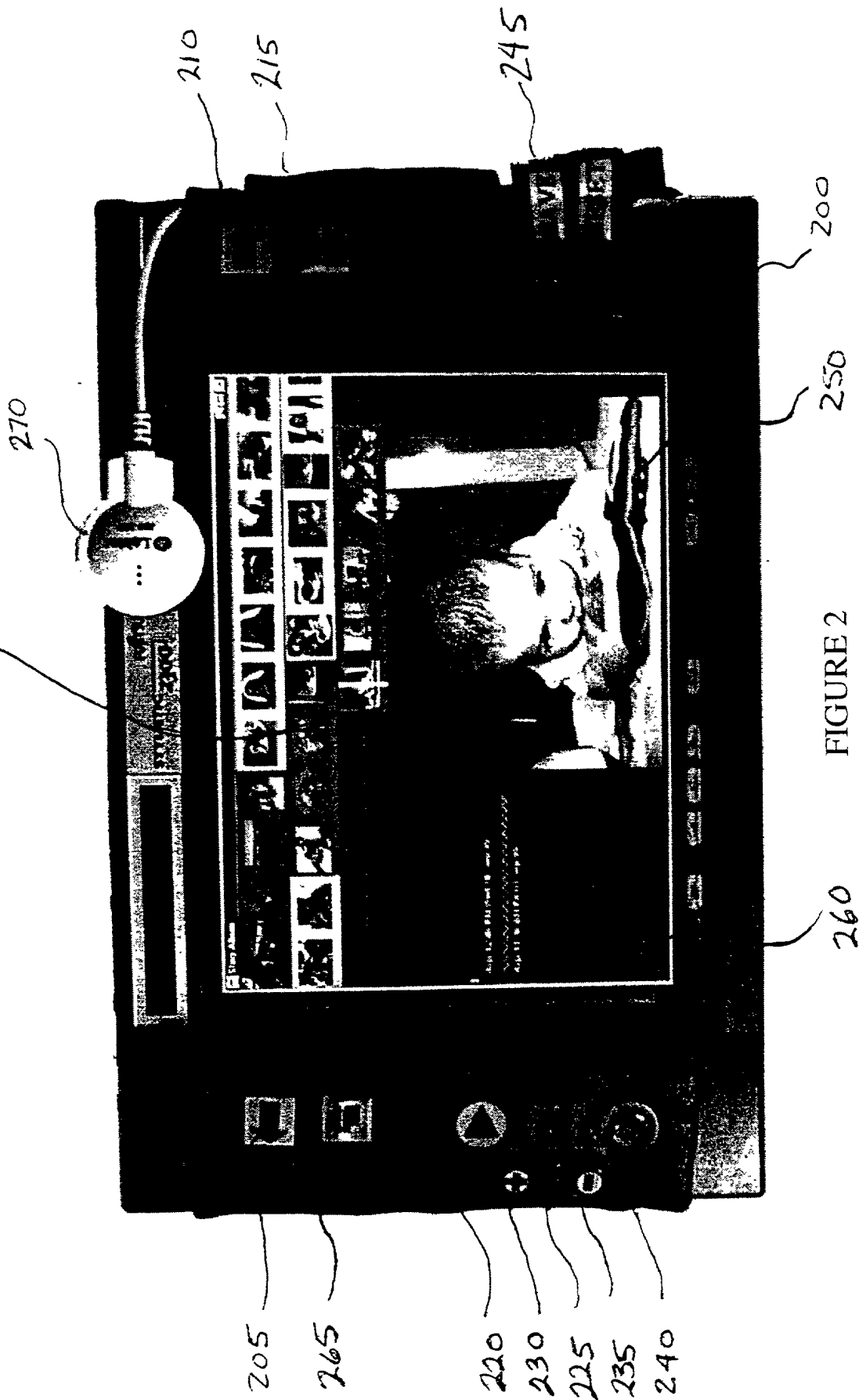


FIGURE 2

Expand

305

310



Collapse

315

320

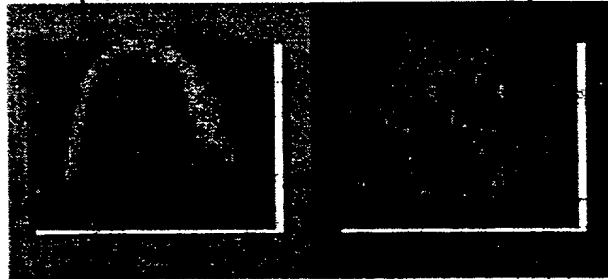


FIGURE 3

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400

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<families>
  <family id="balabanovic">
    <everything-track id="http://Server10/meta6.xml" />
    <stories-track id="http://Server11/meta7.xml" />
    <current-track id="EMPTY" />
  </family>
  <family id="marko">
    <user id="marko" />
    <user id="janet" />
  </family>
  <family id="janet">
    <user id="janet" />
  </family>
</families>
```

405

FIGURE 4

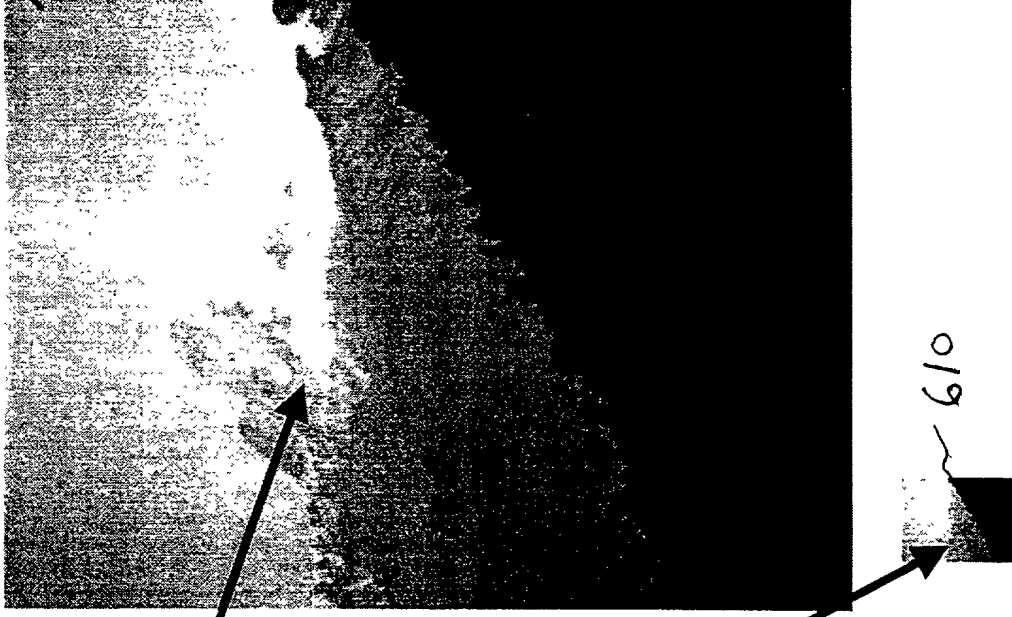


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605

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<photo>
  <full-image id="http://Server2/img1.jpg" />
  <thumb-image id="http://Server3/img2.jpg" />
  <timestamp time="1999-08-13 07:07:42 PDT" />
  <full-dimension h="360" w="253" />
  <thumb-dimension h="60" w="42" />
  <reduced-dimension h="10" w="7" />
  <thumb-colors colors="-5392700 -4668979 -4076846 -3682604 -
3551018 -3682603 -4011565 -4471347 -3747882 -3156261 -2827298 -
2761248 -2761504 -3024420 -3484971 -3024420 -2893348 -1776413 -
1118487 -1512984 -1841949 -3419178 -3551019 -3025190 -1645086 -
1645343 -1579551 -2829613 -4932669 -4735288 -4472118 -2801082 -
4670268 -4934212 -9738130 -5393732 -5656390 -5722183 -5722183 -
8289396 -11975093 -12568001 -6644311 -6380369 -7959917 -11053733
-12962245 -12962502 -12108742 -9277574 -11251883 -12831175 -
13094347 -13291213 -13225677 -13160656 -12635083 -12832205 -
13029327 -13160656 -13226192 -13160656 -13226964 -12306890 -
12701134 -12832720 -13029586 -13029586 -13029843 -13030101" />
</photo>
```

600



610

FIGURE 6

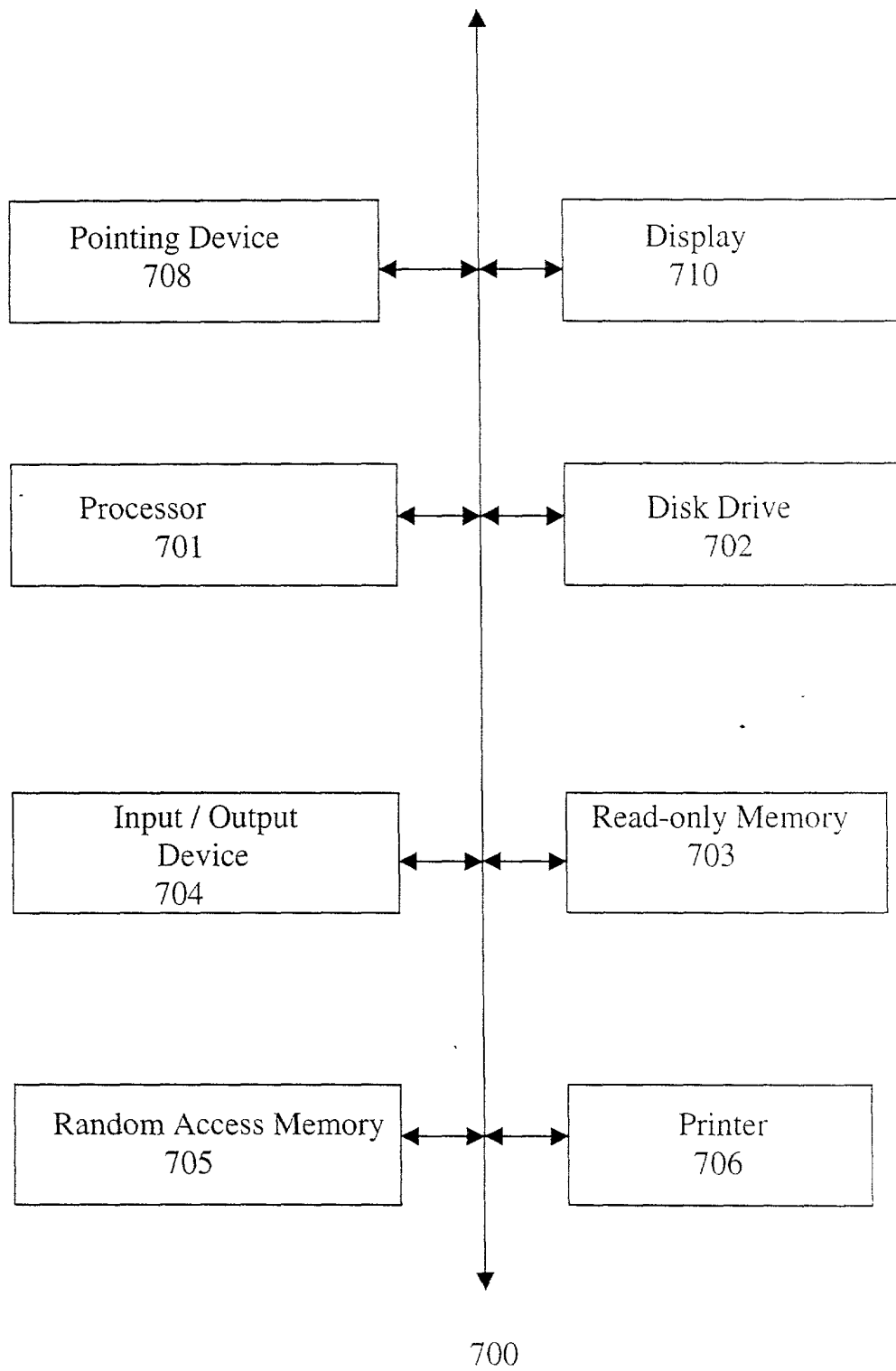


FIGURE 7

005090"42668560

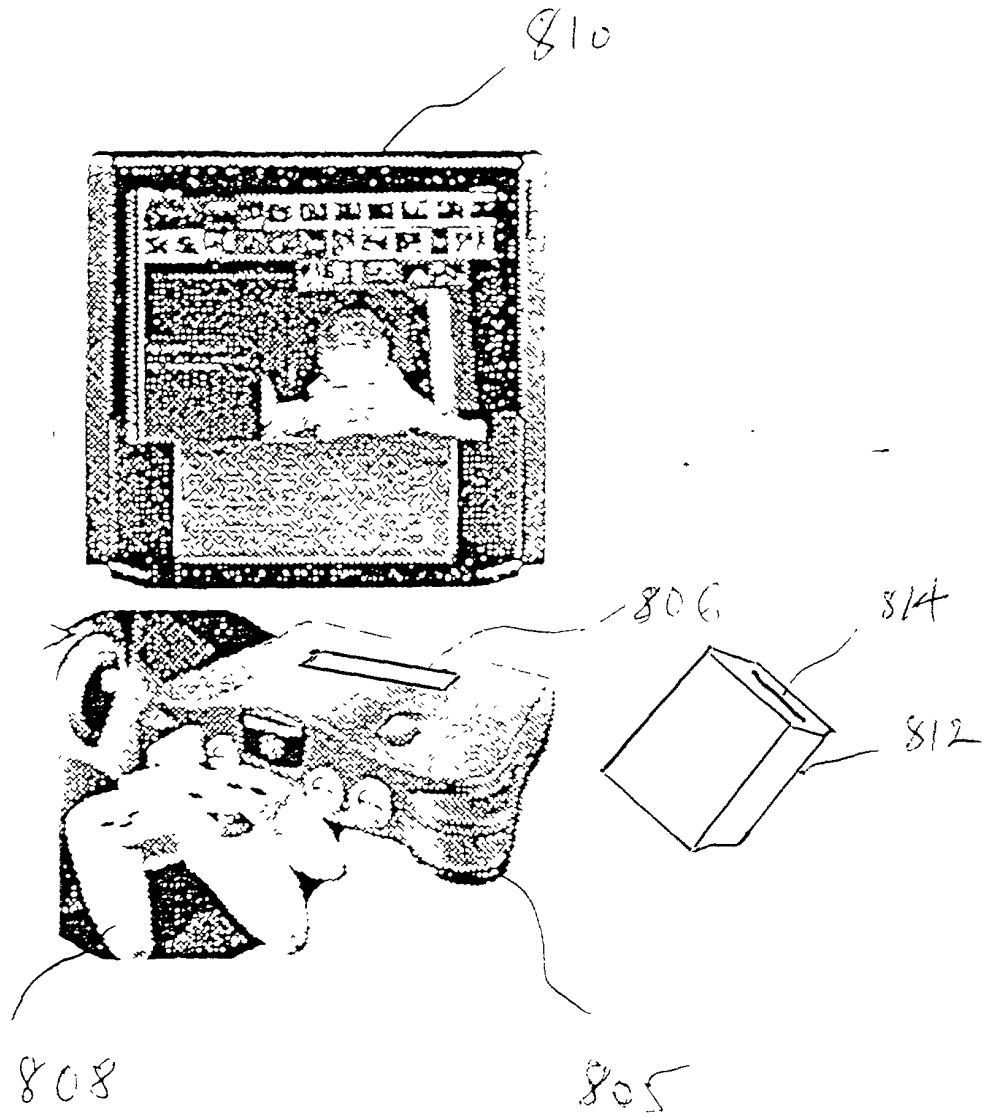


FIGURE 3

## DIGITAL PHOTO ALBUM

## GAME CONSOLE

Scroll to the left of the current track	<LEFT> arrow key
Scroll to the right of the current track	<RIGHT> arrow key
Scroll to the track above	<UP> arrow key
Scroll to the track below	<DOWN> arrow key
Add a media object to story	<A> button
Remove a media object from story	<B> button
Play a story	<C> button
Save a story	<D> button
Send a story	<START> button

FIGURE 9

900



PATENT

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

the specification of which

x is attached hereto.  
\_\_\_\_\_ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as  
United States Application Number \_\_\_\_\_  
or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Prior Foreign Application(s)</u>			<u>Priority Claimed</u>	
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application Number	Filing Date
Application Number	Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>09/465,982</u>	<u>December 16, 1999</u>	<u>Pending</u>
Application Number	Filing Date	Status -- patented, pending, abandoned
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
Application Number	Filing Date	Status -- patented, pending, abandoned

I hereby appoint the persons listed on Appendix A hereto (which is incorporated by reference and a part of this document) as my respective patent attorneys and patent agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to Michael J. Mallie, BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR &  
(Name of Attorney or Agent)  
ZAFMAN LLP, 12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025 and direct  
telephone calls to Michael J. Mallie, (408) 720-8300.  
(Name of Attorney or Agent)

005090-4265850

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole/First Inventor Gregory J. Wolff

Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Full Name of Second/Joint Inventor Marko Balabanovic

Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Third/Joint Inventor Makoto Tanaka

Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Fourth/Joint Inventor \_\_\_\_\_

Inventor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX A

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## APPENDIX B

### Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclosure information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
  - (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
  - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
    - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
    - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
  - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
  - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.